

## A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY OF THE SNOWY RIVER AREA IN NORTH-EASTERN VICTORIA.

(Plates 11-13).

This report deals with a primary visit to the area, provides a generalized description of the country, and lists the plants and animals collected.

The Snowy River and its tributaries between Buchan and the Victoria-New South Wales border traverse much country which is unpopulated and remains in its virgin state. It is steeply mountainous, consisting of an unbroken series of ranges and valleys which support a varied flora, and which extend northwards towards Mt. Kosciusko in New South Wales. With the exception of the Snowy River itself, no ground survey of the country has ever been made, and it is almost unknown biologically.

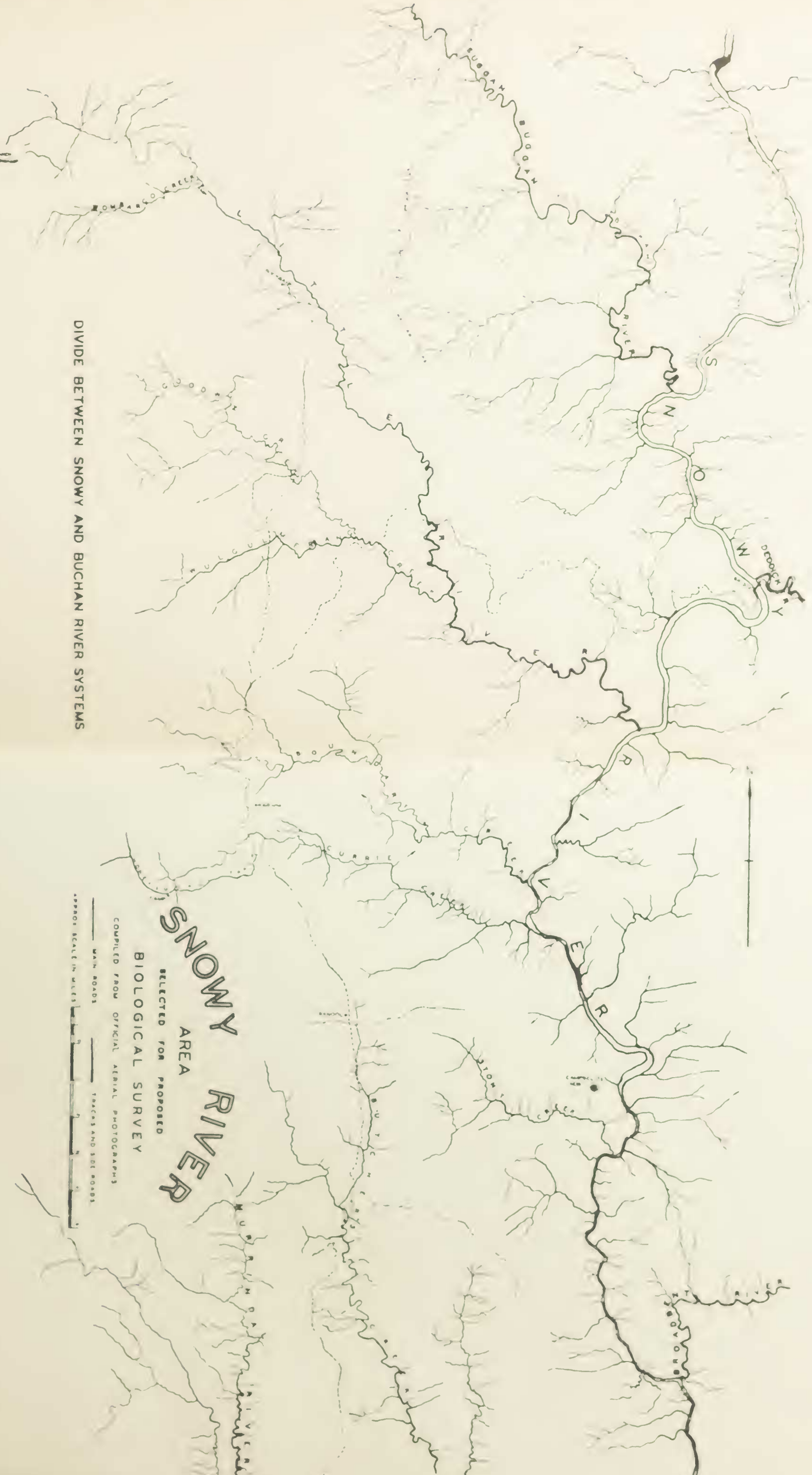
These conditions alone make the area a desirable one for an ecological study, but there is also another consideration. There is a proposal by Governmental bodies to divert the water of the Snowy River for use in the generation of hydro-electric power and for irrigation. This may have some repercussion on the biological balance of the area below the diversion, and could, in the future, form the subject for an interesting comparison.

The above facts outline the reasons for the investigation by the National Museum of Victoria.

Museum personnel on the primary visit consisted of C. W. Brazenor (Mammalogist), J. H. Macpherson (Conchologist), S. G. Whineup (Mineralogist), and R. Boswell (Preparator).

A camp on the Snowy River, planned from the very meagre maps and information available before the trip, proved to be impractical when the area was reached. Headquarters was therefore established near Gelantipy, and two- or three-day excursions were made from there. In this manner the party visited the Snowy River, at Campbell's Nob and at its junction with the Deddick River, the Suggan Buggan River, the Little River and Wombargo Creek, the Murriindal River gorge, and high country between the source of the Buchan River and Wombargo Creek. From observations made during these excursions, the following sketch of the area may be made.

The country rock of the area is mainly Snowy River porphyry. Under this heading is included varied rock types, a number of



DIVIDE BETWEEN SNOWY AND BUCHAN RIVER SYSTEMS

# SNOWY RIVER

AREA  
SELECTED FOR PROPOSED  
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

MAJOR ROADS  
TRAILS AND SIDE ROADS

APPROX SCALE IN MILES